

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1920

Printed and published daily by New York Tribune Inc., a New York Corporation. Office: 120 N. York St., New York, N. Y. Telephone: 1000.

Subscription Rates—By mail, including postage in the United States:

By Mail, Postpaid	One Year	One Month
City and Suburbs	\$12.00	\$1.00
Outside U. S.	\$15.00	\$1.25
Foreign Rates		
By Mail, Postpaid	\$18.00	\$1.50
By Air Mail	\$24.00	\$2.00
By Air Mail, Postpaid	\$27.00	\$2.25

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Matter.

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Europe's Recovery

In the political sense Europe's recovery from the effects of the war will be gradual. A system of balance which had come down, with slight disturbance, from the Congress of Vienna was destroyed on the battlefield. No fresh and equally stable equilibrium has been established. The victors in the war and the new states which have emerged from it are held together by loose bonds. The peace conference brought estrangements rather than unification. Russia has dashed away from her old orbit. She has deserted the European concert and has become a "bad European." Soviet Russia is a menace and an enigma. Defeated and unrepentant Germany is another potential insurgent and trouble maker. Turkey in Asia may turn out to be as much of a focus of turmoil as Turkey in Europe used to be.

For a time Europe's economic situation seemed even more deplorable than her political situation. Victors and vanquished alike were overwhelmed with debt. Credit was low. Currencies were debased, trade and production were damaged. Taking the value of the American dollar as a measure, many European countries are on the verge of insolvency. The great problem has been to get people again to working and saving, to liquidate debt and to abolish government deficits.

It is impossible in Russia and extremely difficult in Germany. But, in spite of acute political unsettlement, Europe as a whole appears to be turning the economic corner. Her production is increasing and her trade expanding rapidly. The Department of Commerce has collected statistics which show that Belgium's imports from January to October, 1920, were larger by 5,320,000,000 francs than her imports for the same nine months in 1919. Exports showed an increase of 5,378,000,000 francs. Those of 1920 were five times as large as those of 1919.

The United Kingdom's export trade in 1920 was nearly double that in 1919, while imports increased less than 20 per cent. Since January 1, 1920, France has wiped out her wartime adverse balance of trade. In 1914 her exports were about 78 per cent of her imports. In 1917, 1918 and 1919 they were a little over 20 per cent. In October of this year they were 90 per cent. French export trade this year has increased about 300 per cent over 1919. Italy's exports have nearly doubled, while her import trade has been stationary.

The revival in productive power which these figures reveal is the most hopeful sign in Europe to-day.

The European political readjustment, if it is to last, must rest on the solid basis of economic recovery.

Service Men as Farmers

Says the American Legion Weekly:

"What the Federal government has thus far failed to do—make provision for the land-hungry veteran who wanted and still wants a farm of his own—South Dakota has done to the satisfaction of all concerned. A state land settlement act, a state fund, a minimum requirement of capital on the part of the ex-service man, ample loans, fair interest, and the result? A record of stock holdings and crop production 'substantially in excess of the average production per individual farmer of the state.' Land settlement, whereby ex-service men are to be assisted in purchasing farms in any state, reimbursing the government for funds advanced by easy payments extending over ten years or more, is one provision of the Legion's plan of beneficial legislation and adjusted compensation."

Loans have averaged about \$4,500 each. Most of the men have put in about 10 per cent of their capital, using the balance of it for stock and improvements and paying out most of the borrowed money on the land itself. Of the first fifty men to be settled on land by the Land Settlement Board on October 1, 46 of them owned 1,015 head of cattle, an average of 32 head; 92 of them owned 455 hogs, averaging 14 each; 32 owned 144 milk cows, an average of 4 head each, and 31 owned 195 calves, an average of 6 head. Forty-

three raised 1,671 acres of corn, 26 raised 685 acres of oats and 25 have raised 912 acres of wheat. Aggregate production of these and other grains totals nearly 100 acres a man. The figures cited are significant. Here is a sane, practicable plan, the productive phase of which is of the largest economic importance.

New Rent Law Decisions

New rent law decisions have been handed down in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department. One of them, which is in conflict with a decision made previously in the Appellate Division of the Second Department, holds that although the Legislature had the right to abolish summary proceedings against a tenant oversteering a lease it couldn't at the same time deprive the landlord of the alternative remedy of a suit for ejectment. But the court also held that a landlord couldn't collect an unreasonable increase in rental, even though a tenant had covenanted to pay it.

These two decisions practically offset each other. The landlord would have little inducement to bring a suit for ejectment against a tenant refusing to pay an exorbitant increase for the sake of installing a new tenant willing to promise to pay it. The promise is worthless under the court's ruling. If the new tenant repudiated it, as he has the right to do, the owner, to get rid of him, would have to go through another tedious ejectment process. The emergency laws to stabilize occupancy have stood many severe tests in the courts, both state and Federal. They do not deprive the landlord of a reasonable return, judicially determined. The Court of Appeals has yet to pass on them. But in the light of the opinions so far handed down the soundest policy on the part of tenants and landlords seems to be not to fight over technicalities and accumulate law costs, but to try to reach a fair and friendly out-of-court agreement.

The Man Who Could Be Sultan

Here is a former sergeant of marines, who has been made Sultan of Llang Llang, a little island of the Philippine group, because he rescued the late Sultan from a party of his comrades during a Moro uprising ten years ago. The grateful potentate made him his heir, and now this plain American soldier, a machinist in civil life, has fifteen hundred people to rule, if the Bureau of Insular Affairs decides that his title is good and he cares to undertake the job. The prospect should be pleasing to an adventurous spirit. Many besides Sancho Panza have had dreams of governing. Nevertheless, this American heir, a substantial citizen and settled married man, appears to be rather dubious about the enterprise. His wife is more dubious still. Even pearl fisheries and coconut groves may be bought too dearly.

"Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay," was the conclusion of Tennyson's young man. The prosiness of the little town of Wrentham, Mass., seems better to a middle-aged machinist than Llang Llang, P. I., a place whose name sounds like perfumery, but in fact is probably a bad smell.

Our Next Naval Cabinet

The Secretary of the Navy has recently made certain changes in high naval commands that may influence the policy of the next Administration:

1. General Lejeune, who commanded the marines in France, has succeeded General Barnett as commander of the Marine Corps.
2. Dr. Stitt has succeeded Dr. Braisted as surgeon general of the navy.
3. Captain McVay has succeeded Captain Earle as chief of ordnance.
4. Pay Director Peoples was nominated to succeed Pay Director McGowan in supplies and accounts, but he has very modestly declined the appointment on the ground that there are officers senior to him in rank who deserve the honor—a commendable act on his part.

5. Rear Admiral Niblack has been sent to London as naval attaché. He testified volubly to screen the Secretary in the investigation of the conduct of the war.
6. Rear Admiral Strauss is to relieve Admiral Gleaves on the Asiatic station. He testified before the Senate to shield the Secretary of the Navy. He made the amazing declaration that our fleet in 1917, without any protecting screen worth mentioning, could have met a powerful fleet properly screened! Other officers declared it would have been "dangerous," "impossible" or "criminal."

These changes have been made one at a time—at intervals. Was this method adopted to avoid critical attention as to motive or policy?

It has been rumored in Washington that other changes are in prospect—that there may be a new chief of operations, and that the commanders of the Atlantic and Pacific fleets are booked for the Naval Academy and the Canal Zone, respectively. These two officers testified before the Senate in support of Mr. Daniels' disastrous doings. The naval service, and particularly the most distinguished officers of the old navy, strongly disapproved of their action.

Without any reference whatever to the fitness of these officers, there

is no need of making such changes at this time. On the contrary, there are many reasons for not doing so. There should be no suspicion that appointments are made at this late day to reward any of the Secretary's apologists. Still less defensible is the project to reward other defenders of this Administration. And those among the new appointees who are not in the category of favorites should be carefully protected against the charge of receiving their appointments through personal favoritism.

The next Secretary of the Navy should be free to select his own assistants. Naturally he will not wish to demote officers recently appointed by his predecessor. But it is indefensible to saddle him with the policies of this Administration. There has been a "great and solemn referendum." There should be "a complete breach with the past" in naval methods.

The President of the United States in the interim between November 2 and March 4 would not assume to name a Cabinet for his successor. Such action would be unseemly and wrong. For the same reason it is wrong for anybody to select, at this time, a naval cabinet for Mr. Harding's Secretary of the Navy.

A Legend

How a legend may be perpetuated is illustrated by reflections in which The World's Work indulges this month when discussing the "back to McKinley" interpretation of Senator Harding's political success.

The World's Work is not a partisan publication, and commonly handles political issues in a detached way. Yet it apparently adopts as one of the uncontradicted verities of history the theory that in McKinley's day "the safeguarding of 'privilege' was regarded 'as one of the chief functions of the state.' It refers to Mark Hanna as if it were conceded he bought a nomination and then an election. It speaks with admiration of the fund of \$5,000,000 raised by Chairman Hays without getting anything from corporations and without accepting more than \$1,000 from any one contributor. Yet it holds it was abominable for Hanna to raise half as large a fund to carry on perhaps the most strenuous political campaign in the country's history.

McKinley did not owe his nomination to money. He was the choice of the Republican rank and file. The losses were against him rather than for him. The success of his candidacy came through the defeat of entrenched local machines which fought behind favorite sons.

The victory in the election and the triumph of the sound money cause represented in a conspicuous way a free judgment of the people. For months the country was a huge debating society. Seldom were there more earnest political interest and a result less tainted by sinister influences than in 1896. The Hanna legend was an invention of the discomfited Bryan and of the cartoonists of the yellow press.

As to "privilege," it is enough to say that the word is a vague one which may mean anything, and thus means nothing. It is campaign shibboleth which represents an attempt to dodge argument and to appeal to prejudice. The McKinley policies were open and aboveboard, and though it is permissible to any one to challenge their wisdom there is no excuse for black-guarding the motives of those who espoused them. As President Mr. McKinley had the confidence of his fellow citizens to a marked degree, and his untimely death was regarded as a calamity. It is scarcely possible to cover his grave with dishonor.

Enriching the Kaiser

The ex-Kaiser has not lost his skill as a money getter and keeper. The other day in the Prussian Diet the Majority Socialist Heilmann brought out that he is to-day better off financially than he was while still kaiserling.

The financial settlement between the House of Hohenzollern and the Prussian government, now pending, involves a mass of entangled legalities. Under German law it is difficult to draw the line between state and dynastic property. In former times the "crown revenue," consisting chiefly of income from land, was enjoyed by the sovereign on the theory that he defrayed from it all expenditures of government. With modern state financing became obsolete; nevertheless the Hohenzollerns and the rest of the reigning families not only held on to crown property, but even increased their income by bequeathing civil lists to the taxpayers' shoulders.

Herr Heilmann contends that the crown holdings of the Hohenzollern family should be confiscated outright instead of paying for them 100,000,000 marks, as proposed in the bill of settlement. He cites as an instance of Hohenzollern business ethics the case of some Berlin real estate which in 1900 was sold by the royal family to the Prussian government for 14,500,000 marks. Later the crown lawyers themselves were forced to admit that the property had belonged, not to the dynasty, but to the Prussian state.

Herr Heilmann points out that the Prussian people to-day pay 48,-

000,000 marks a year for expenditures (theaters, museums, pensions, etc.) formerly defrayed from the Kaiser's private income, this being the principal reason why Wilhelm's income to-day is higher than it was before November, 1918. The ex-Kaiser costs the Prussian people, Heilmann says, 30,000,000 marks a year more than he did while he still reigned.

Laughter

Wherein We Are Chastised for a Brutal Attack Upon Judicial Humor To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You ought to be ashamed of the indecent exposure of your ignorance regarding the true nature of humor in your editorial to-day entitled "Laughter." Humor is purely a relative state of mind. It may be called excited indifference or animated boredom. Humor being a relative state of mind must always be judged by its background. The proceedings in a court of law, or in the Congress in Washington, are so superlatively dull that any emotional disturbance of the dullness passes for humor. Indeed, it is humor in its place and surroundings.

The idea of "Mrs. Beeton's process of pickling sprats" may not be at all funny to your editorial writer, as he calls the same out of a cloying pile of the world's best wit and humor as reflected in the exchanges, but it is screamingly funny to a tired, bored, listless crowd in the courtroom. To them it comes like a bone to a dog or a crust to a starving man, and it certainly ought not to be disparaged by a glutton for humor like your rather blasé editorial writer.

Take that same editorial writer and stick him on a hard bench in a dull courtroom on a dull day, and squeeze him down with the weight of the solemnity of the occasion, and then let in the least rift of humor and he probably would split his sides with "laughter," the same as all the others.

Any editorial writer who would attack courtroom humor or Congressional humor would take candy away from a child or bread from the hungry, and ought to be ashamed of himself.

Mr. Editor, spare the courtroom joke. Take it up tenderly; fashioned so slenderly. Remember, it is some one's darling, even if it looks unlovely to you. We ask so little. Spare us that. You've taken our booze, our beer; spare us our 2.75 puns. The Sabbath is growing bled. Permit us a thin smile in midweek. Instead of putting the hook on the funny judges, encourage them with applause. Water their sprouts of humor with hope and faith. In time they may grow into trees.

Finally, judge not your brother's jokes lest he should judge yours.

W. H. CHICHESTER CLARKE.

New York, Dec. 23, 1920.

One-Way Ships

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The most urgent need of our merchant marine at this time would seem to be the construction of a type of steamship that may be called "one-way" steamers, so designed as to carry freight out of the country and to bring nothing back. We are assured by the Home Market Club that the importation of goods made by cheap foreign labor threatens ruin to our manufacturing industries, and the farmers of the country are urgently demanding a high protective tariff on farm products that will shut out foreign meat, grain, etc. With the certainty that duties on manufactured articles will be greatly increased in the near future, the proposed high taxes on farm products will leave mighty little freight for vessels coming to this country. The lack of return cargoes will make it necessary to charge high rates for the export trade, thus hampering our sales of farm products and merchandise to foreign countries.

The ideal steamship, from a high protection point of view, is one that carries goods abroad, but brings no return freight. Whether the operation of this kind of freight carrier will be profitable is another question. SKEPTIC.

New York, Dec. 24, 1920.

A Note to Mr. Baker

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As a reader of The Tribune I take the liberty to ask you to publish in some form either the following letter or the sum of its contents. This letter is being sent to-day to Newton C. Baker, Secretary of War:

"At the American Legion meeting of the West End Post held in its club room at 2228 Broadway, New York City, on last Thursday, the 16th of December, an appeal was made to the members from the American Red Cross through one of the legion members, that we give our old army overcoats for service men convalescing in hospitals in this district. This is necessary on account of the failure of the government to furnish overcoats for these men. 'Surplus clothing is being sold right and left at what is supposed to be sacrifice prices, and I am therefore unable to understand why these convalescent soldiers cannot be furnished with sufficient clothing.'"

"The writer would appreciate an immediate investigation and an early report of progress made in finding out who is to blame for this outrage and as to whether or not steps are being taken to correct the policy heretofore carried out by the War Department clothing convalescents in hospitals in this district."

MILES D. KING.

New York, Dec. 20, 1920.

Radically Wrong

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Is there not something radically wrong with the following situation: Alien immigrants are arriving at the port of New York at the rate of 4,000 or 5,000 daily and the large majority of these, according to the best of evidence, are practically paupers. On the other hand, all over the country thousands of unemployed American workers are clamoring for state and Federal aid during a period of increasing unemployment. What possible justification can there be for a policy which admits hundreds of thousands of aliens, all of whom must somehow or other be supported, and at the same time sees hundreds of thousands of our own people in need of support?

ROBERT DEC. WARD.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 22, 1920.

The Conning Tower

OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT (SURGICAL)

Cracks in bones and holes in skins;
Old dames with ulcers on their shins;
Scalds on arms and burns on hands,
And children with tubercular glands,
And frozen ears and frozen toes;
A little boy who's skinned his nose;
Fingers crushed and fingers cut,
And long scalp wounds stitched up with gut.

Perhaps you think that I feel sick
When from a wound I pull a wick,
Or when I put a dressing on
A stump from which a finger's gone?

Perhaps you think my bandaging halts
While I sniff my smelling salts
With shaky hand and chalky face?
—Quite the contrary's the case!

When I look upon these sights,
Bruises and burns and cuts and bites,
And feel my own limbs whole and sound,
With never a sore and never a wound,

How fit I feel no tongue can tell,
How positively, acutely well;
And in gross health and spirits gay
I leave the clinic every day.

K. LIVERMORE.

Reminder: Celebrate next Thanksgiving because the day after Christmas comes but a day.

THE RISE AND FALL OF INSP. COP.

When over the financial sheet
I read, "Bear Market Proves Sensation";

Or, "Stocks Reflect Bad Day on Street"—
I turn to look at Inspiration.

And find those fickle shares of mine
Are mentioned in this agate line:

Insp. Cop. 41 29% 30% 11%

But when, upon the other hand,
"All Stocks Respond to Upward Movement";

Or, "Bears in Rout as Bulls Command,"
Or else, "Whole Market Shows Improvement";

Why, then those shares—this is a pipe—
Run over true to agate type:

Insp. Cop. 20% 20% 30% 4-1%

G. S. K.

The Perfect Simile, found by Daisy Bell in Jane Welsh Carlyle's Letters:

"So I slipped away from them like a knotless thread."

CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE

WAS YOURS, EDNA.

Sir: I sent you Ellen, who served as copy, served your dinner, listened to your concertina—and then served you notice. And so, if a contributor is one whose something you use—mayn't I come to the Contributors' Dinner?

EDNA BARUCH.
State of New York,
Department of Labor.

Now the New Year, reviving old refrains, arouses the following quatrain, "To Edna St. Vincent Millay":

No name for me when I am dead,
Nor any mortal sorrow.

For it will ring in SO one's head—
Will Edna Kingsley Wallace.

EDNA KINGSLEY WALLACE.

The refrains continue. Christmas Eve we couldn't sleep, what with waiting to have Santa Claus get by the elevator man and these burthens:

I hear those angel voices calling, "Zona Gale."

And:

Thyra Samter Winslow, prithee tell me true,

Hey, but I'm doleful, Thyra Samter Winslow.

Have you e'er a lover adangling after you?

Hey, willow waly ol'

Thyra Samter Winslow,

Thyra Samter Winslow,

Hey, willow, waly ol'!

SKEPTIC.

New York, Dec. 24, 1920.

Gotham Gleanings

—Looks like snow.

—News are scarce this wk.

—Bill Tilden Xmased in Australia.

—Lola Fisher Xmased in Youngstown, O.

—New Years is the next holiday, next Sat.

—Bill Benet was a pleasant Thursday caller. Come again, Will.

—Sat. A. Woolcott, retired, spent Xmas as quietly as could be expected.

—Miss Marion Strobel of Chicago contemplates to make a trip to N. Y. next spring.

—Lots of merry parties are being planned for seeing in "the new year." Ah there, H. S. H.!

—Reinold Werrenrath contemplates to spend the New Year in Miami, Fla., with Jack La Gorce and others.

—Raymond Ives came back from abroad on the Olympic last wk. with Roscoe Arbuckle and Mrs. Atherton and others.

—Carroll McComas is going to begin playing the part of Lulu in "Miss Lulu Bett" tonight. Merry Christmas Carroll as Chas. Dickens would say.

—It is true, we wonder, that Mr. Julian Street's Mr. H. Bell Brown writes 90 per cent of all the Christmas and New Year cards?

—"As a Long Island commuter," writes G. T. S., "I know the West Hempstead Branch, but not Anna."

—"Stone walls do not a prison make," To quote the ancient stuff;

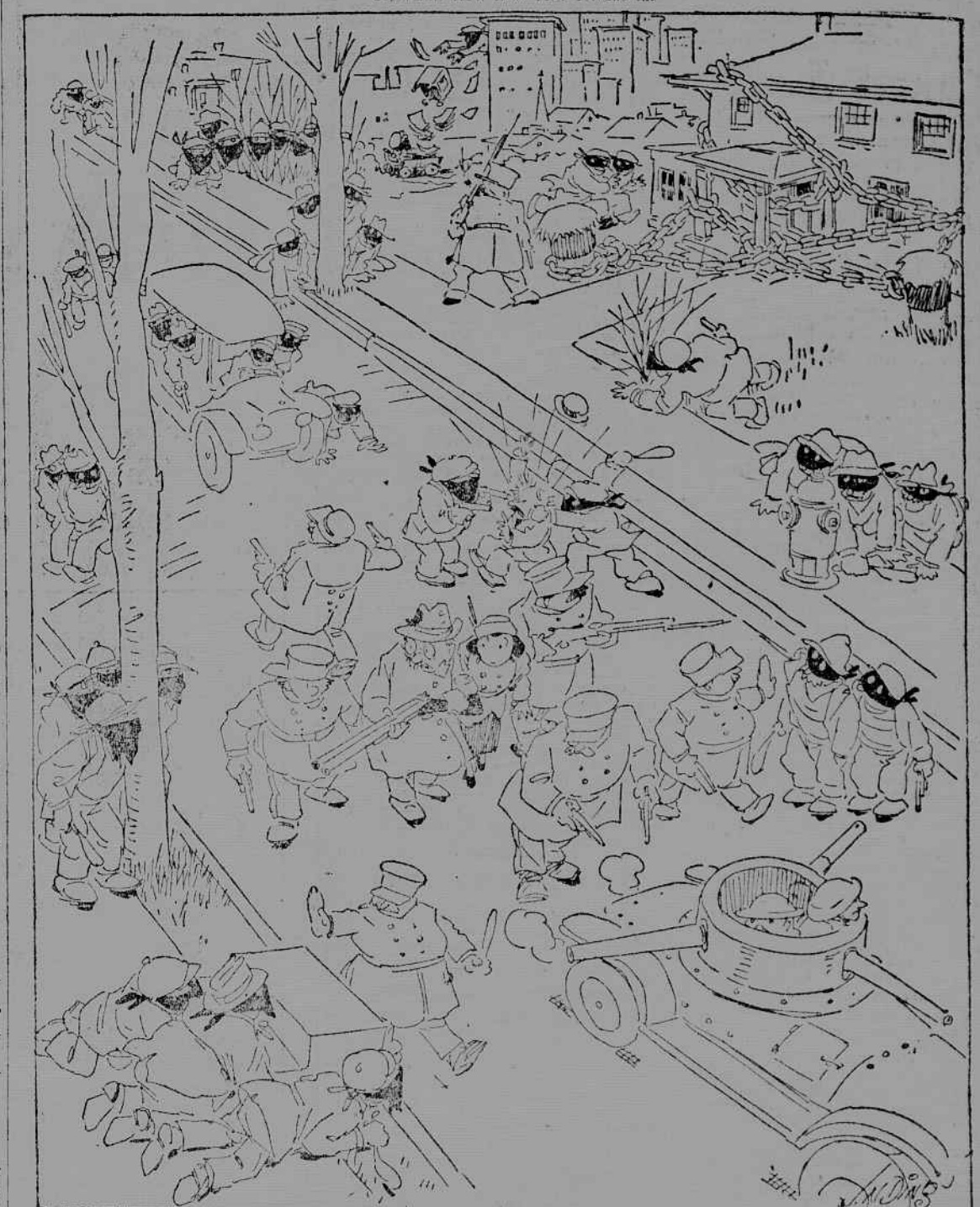
And it's just as well, for the building trade

Has plenty graft enough.

F. P. A.

WE ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LADY WHO WEARS HER FAMILY JEWELS OUT IN PUBLIC WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS

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P. D.—Neither Will We Be Responsible if She Leaves Them at Home

Books

By Heywood Brown

Painted Veils, a novel, a first one, we think, by James Huneker, is of uneven merit. Some of it seems to us first rate, but then again it strays into soggy chapters of flamboyant and cheap material used in an effort to amaze and to dazzle rather than convince. Curiously enough, Huneker at his worst is decidedly sophomoric. He seems often a sort of eternal F. Scott Fitzgerald. The value of the flapper as a continuous subject of interest and of study throughout a long and busy life seems to have been underestimated. In some measure the effectiveness of Mr. Huneker's literary method has lessened with the last twenty years. There was a time when an American writer had only to record "I have been to Paris and can rattle off for you the names of French streets and French dishes" to capture the enraptured attention of all readers from New Rochelle to Gopher Prairie. That works with less effect to-day, for all too many of us know that after all an euf is only an egg. We are even able to hear cecotie calmly.

Since Painted Veils is a story about an opera singer, it naturally contains the obligatory chapter in which we find the heroine in her tub. We have always admired the supreme confidence and assurance with which veteran novelists approach this particular portion of their story. If we ever have to write it we know that we will be unable to conceal our timidity. In fact, our chapter will probably be headed "Wonder What a Young Girl Taking a Bath Thinks About." There is no such doubt in the minds of the veterans. They write as if they knew.

But the most disturbing thing in Painted Veils is the standard which one of Huneker's characters holds up for newspaper dramatic critics. "Fast 11 o'clock," he writes of Ulric Invern, "and nowhere to go but home. Why not? To-morrow was to be a busy day. He had to write his Sunday screed."

Unless we are able to assume that Ulric was a disciple of the from one and a half to two hour day his preparation for writing a Sunday dramatic piece is enough to make us feel rather ashamed.

We wish that Huneker was not quite so given to writing about "little men." It gives us the feeling that we are reading a press notice of some forthcoming Alaskan picture with Dustin Farnum to be called "Where Blood Runs Red."

But perhaps the best clue which we can give to the nature of Painted Veils is to note the fact that Mr. Huneker regards Edgar Saltus as a great stylist. Perhaps he simply wants to stand behind the President-elect.

"I go a long way with you when you write about Max Beerbohm," writes Gilbert Seldes, "but one thing cannot and will not stand, which is that there is anything in common between O. Henry and Max in the use of the trick. If there is anything that distinguishes Max from O. Henry, and there are several million things, it is that Max does not use the trick. Exhibit A is, as it should be, 'The Happy Hypocrite.' Up to the time when Lord George Hall puts on his mask you think it is going to be a trick story; thereafter you pray to the good God that it will not be. And it isn't. It is a fairy tale of the purest. And skipping to more recent adventures, the remark 'Meanwhile, what of the duke?' toward the end of Zuleika Dobson is not a trick, unless

with an indelible grease-pencil. The postoffice says that will be all right. After the advertisement has been obliterated with a grease-pencil The Liberator can go through the mails. "What is the offending advertisement? Nobody knows except the people who are expurgating it from the magazine. Perhaps that is why they are giving this Christmas week to the task of scratching it out. Perhaps it is something very dreadful indeed. Or perhaps it is only an advertisement of a recipe for home brew. If you come across a copy of the magazine with a big black splotch in one corner of the page you will wonder, but you will never know. The postoffice has protected your morals, or your politics, or your sobriety, or whatever was in danger. But what will happen to the little hands of the willing workers who have exposed themselves to its contaminating influence? That is too dreadful to think about."

"I do not know a single page by Max Beerbohm which I have not read at least five times. Nor do I know a single page which I shall not read five times more. As for O. Henry, he has his special qualities, about which you are not inclined to be overindulgent. But for heaven's sake try to read the purely trick story of O. Henry, the story that really depends on those famous last lines of his, and